

Top Row: Locke White, H. S. Turner, C. D. Whitely, R. W. Miles, Jr., T. A. Painter, Junius Horton, J. A. MacLean, I. S. McElroy, Jr., F. C. Symons, J. E. Wayland, Rev. Sydenstricker, W. A. Nicholson, W. H. Foard, M. C. Bowling, E. T. Thompson, A. S. Venable, Jr., T. P. Johnston, C. L. King, George W. Taylor, D. M. McGeachy, J. A. Boyd, R. C. Long, D. Shepperson, J. T. Pharr, E. D. Hollaway, K. L. Whittington, W. G. Wood, E. S. Currie, R. S. Arrowood, J. R. Phips, Third Row: L. C. Tait, J. N. Vandevanter, Jr., D. C. Amick, Cousar, D. C. Young, J. T. Williams, F. M. Bain, D. M. Monroe, S. R. Oglesby, Jr., A. R. Howland, R. A. Jr., Norman Johnson, J. A. Vache, M. A. Boggs, J. G. Patton, Jr.

Commencement at Union Theological Seminary.

By Wade C. Smith.

The one hundred and fifth year of this remarkably successful and greatly honored institution closed last Wednesday, with its campus thronged with visiting friends from all points of the compass, mingling with members of the faculty, the student body and Richmond folk in large number.

Commencement week at Union Seminary is always absorbingly interesting, embracing a series of events each of which carries its own special significance and relation to the Seminary and its friends; but in some respects the occasion this year marks new high records. The graduating class of thirty-one members is not so large as that of two years ago, but the faculty pronounce this year's output of men into the active ministry as of unusually high grade. The formal installation of the new McCormick professor of Hebrew and Interpretation of the Old Testament, Rev. Edward Mack, D. D.; an alumni reunion of seven decennial classes, ranging from 1857 to 1917, and the formal announcement of the largest financial gift ever made to the Seminaryall combined to make the week stand out as an epoch-making one in the annals of an institution which year after year makes its constructive impact upon the church.

"Commencement Sunday."

Interest centered Sunday morning upon the baccalaureate address, delivered by Rev. J. Layton Mauze, D. D., pastor of the Central Presbyterian church, of St. Louis, Mo. Dr. Mauze, speaking to the graduating class, with almost ruthless candor laid bare the problems of the twentieth century pastor. Choosing as his text a passage from 1. Chron, 12:32, "And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do," he gave out of his own experience as a pastor in a big American city a graphic picture of the Church's uphill struggle against the well-nigh overwhelming present-day forces of evil, of hypocrisy and materialism.

The one hundred and fifth year of is remarkably successful and greatly chapel as he challenged the students to go forth to a self-sacrificing and exday, with its campus thronged with

The Sunday evening service was under the auspices of the Society of Missionary Inquiry, conducted by the society's president, Mr. Edward S. Currie. This society is more than one hundred years old. It bears the distinction, the leader stated, of having more than seventy years ago sent to the General Assembly (then of the U. S. A. Church) the overture which resulted in the organization of the Foreign Mission "Board" of the of the Northern Church. The society has sent out from its membership many hundreds of missionaries to both the foreign and home field, and it numbers among its present membership eighteen volunteers to become foreign missionaries. There is also in this society a subsidiary organization which is unique and perhaps the beginning of a movement which will in after years be itself looked upon as one of the great mile-stones in the progress and expansion of the Southern Presbyterian Church. This sub-organization is nothing less than a Student Volunteer Band, pledged to the service of evangelizing the negro. The band consists of just four members, namely: J. A. Boyd (leader), Graham F. Campbell, W. A. Nicholson and R. C. Long-the latter having most successfully conducted the Seventeenth Street colored mission in Richmond during the Seminary term just closed. This band was organized as a result of a visit of Rev. John Little, of Louisville, Ky., to the Seminary in March last, and is perhaps the only one of its kind in existence. It is but another evidence of that spirit in the Seminary which making it remarkable for courage and for progress. The Church has never fearlessly and unreservedly grappled with negro evangelization. Here is a movement which at one bound lifts that work to the dignity

of a real missionary cause—student

volunteers for the negro work!

The annual address to the Society of Missionary Inquiry, on this occasion, was delivered by Rev. Egbert W. Smith, D. D., executive secretary of Foreign Missions. Dr. Smith-always incisive, always interesting-chose for his theme the "overchurched" condition of the United States as compared to the great heathen empires and communities where multitudes are without the gospel. His text, from Numbers 32:23, " * * * be sure your sin will find you out," was applied by a very interesting analysis of present conditions in the ministry and among the churches. The speaker gave statistics showing the average of ministers' salaries to be less than \$600 per annum, and a worse than hand-to-mouth struggle for maintenance on the part of thousands of weak and undermanned organizations, denominationally overlapping, with a consequent impoverished and weakened effort, held in contempt by the world. This, he said, was our sin finding us out, our punishment being surfeit and failure at home, while millions beyond our borders are calling for the bread of life.

Both the morning and evening services of commencement Sunday crowded the commodious chapel to the galleries.

Farewell Reception to the Senior Class.

On Monday night Richmond Hall presented a brilliant scene. It was the great social event of the comment season-the farewell reception to the seniors. Twice during the session you may run upon this distinctively Seminary social gathering. The other one occurs at the opening of the session in the fall, when the seniors and middle class tender the incoming junior class a reception. The two events are much alike, except that the commencement occasion brings more visitors from abroad. In either case, however, you will find gathered upon the polished floor of the large refectory in Richmond Hall a most attractive company, consisting of the members of the Board of Trustees and their wives, the faculty and their families, the student body and their sweethearts, and many Richmond friends from Ginter Park and other parts of the city. There is always a thoroughly interesting program of an hour's length or more, consisting mainly of brief felicitous speeches and music, vocal and instrumental.

On this occasion the merrymakers of the program were the members of the Seminary quartet, aided by Misses Barnes and Booth from the Assembly's Training School, and Mrs. Renshaw, expression teacher in the John Marshall High School. Students C. L. King, Lapsley Carson, N. N. Fleming, Ernest Thompson, Jr., and Dr. Lingle, of the faculty, participated in the speech-making of the hour.

There are no more delightful entertainments anywhere than these Seminary gatherings. Simple in a way, and informal, yet characterized by a sustaining and restful dignity and graced by the highest type of Southern beauty and chivalry.

